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Docket No: 10123/00701 (03-085)

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 10, 12, 14, 17, 18, and 20 have been amended. Claims 11, 15 and 19 have been canceled. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 1 - 10, 12 - 14 and 16 - 18, 20, and 21 are now pending in the present application. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are allowable.

Claims 1 - 7, 10, 12 - 14 and 16 - 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Frisch (U.S. Patent 4,447,237). Claims 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Frisch in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,009,391 to Steigerwald. Claims 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steigerwald in view of Frisch. Claims 1-10, 12-14, and 16-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2004/0267185 to Weaver et al. in view of Frisch. Claims 1-10, 12-14, and 16-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2005/0049555 to Moorehead et al. in view of Frisch.

In all these rejections the Examiner relies on Frisch to show a nonthrombogenic coating. Nevertheless, Applicants submit that the nonthrombogenic coating of Frisch is not the same as the one recited in the independent claims. Each of the independent claims has been amended to recite that the nonthrombogenic coating includes hydrogel. As the Examiner has noted, Frisch teaches TDMAC/heparin, but Frisch does not state that this substance contains hydrogel. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

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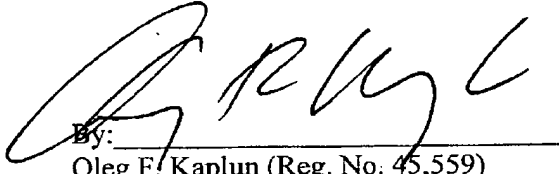
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CONCLUSION

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 5/16/08

  
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